

the most celebrated stars of the motion picture industry devoted their time, energy, and prodigious abilities to "The Long Way Home," most notably narrator Morgan Freeman and featured voices Edward Asner, Sean Astin, Martin Landau, Miriam Margolyes, David Paymer, Nina Siemaszko, Helen Slater and Michael York. Together they created, in the words of the Los Angeles Times, "an eloquent saga of historical importance" and "a major accomplishment."

Most of all, I would like to recognize my dear friend Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the co-producer of "The Long Way Home." Rabbi Hier has devoted his life to ensuring the eternal remembrance of the Holocaust, and it was most appropriate that he accepted the film's Academy Award. As he looked out to the many prestigious guests and the hundreds of millions of worldwide viewers, he let no soul forget the purpose and meaning of his documentary: "This is for the survivors of the Holocaust, who walked away from the ashes, rebuilt their lives, and helped create the state of Israel. G-d bless them."

Mr. Speaker, the Kennedy Center, in cooperation with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, will present a screening of "The Long Way Home" tonight. I encourage my colleagues to attend, and I ask them to join me in celebrating the inspiring men and women to whom "The Long Way Home" is dedicated.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STUDENT
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP
ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the Republican District of Columbia School Vouchers Act. It was brought to the floor on false logic and ignores the real problems in public education.

Let's take the Republican argument at face value for a minute. If public schools in the District of Columbia are unable to educate our children, as my colleagues claim, is the solution to remove 2,000 of them and place them in private schools? What do we do for the 76,000 students left behind?

In fact, these 75,000 will have to do with less funds available to help their education. It will cost \$7 million to educate these 2,000 students in private schools—but this bill does not allow for additional funds to help the remaining children. How else could this \$7 million be spent? The money could pay for after-school programs in each and every D.C. public school, 368 new boilers, could rewire 65 schools, upgrade plumbing in 102 schools, or buy 460,000 new textbooks.

The people who live in the District of Columbia do not want this bill. The people of the District of Columbia did get the chance to vote on vouchers when the issue was placed on the ballot. It was defeated by a margin of eight to one.

The residents of our host city do not deserve to be experiments for right-wing think

tanks that promote ideas favored by the Christian Coalition and the religious right.

If my colleagues on the other side are truly interested in helping students enrolled in public schools, I offer some suggestions for them. Why don't we increase the funds available for teacher salaries? How about holding teachers to educational standards of their own to make sure that those who teach our children are actually qualified to do so? What about providing a textbook in every core subject for every school child in America?

What about adopting the President's plan to improve our educational infrastructure? We need to make sure that school classrooms are not falling apart and students have the resources they need, whether they be textbooks or access to the Internet, to be able to succeed in today's world.

My Republican friends could make a strong stand for education by adopting these policies. Instead they shower us with rhetoric about helping children, when this is really an attack on public education across the country.

The schoolchildren of the District of Columbia deserve our help and need our assistance. This is the wrong move, the wrong idea, and the wrong time and place. I urge my colleagues to take a real and meaningful stand for children and education.

THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, by now we have heard about the problems that will ensue in less than two years if computer systems across the nation are not updated. In the past, computers were programmed to assume all years were in the 1900s, so when the year 2000 rolls around, most systems will incorrectly interpret the last two digits and read it as 1900. This could have a profound effect on our daily lives: automatic banking functions may fail, medical systems could malfunction, and power systems might stop working.

If this problem is not remedied, it will most likely have a devastating impact on our economy. Today's Wall Street Journal reports that "the U.S. may experience a \$1 trillion drop in nominal GDP and a \$1 trillion loss in stock market capitalization." Mr. Speaker, I don't see how our economy could possibly survive these losses.

For years experts have been aware of the Year 2000 Problem, but nothing has been done to remedy the situation. The President and Vice President have ignored this dilemma, despite their claims to make technology a top priority in both terms of their administration. We need leadership in this effort, and we are not seeing it come from the White House.

Imagine the disaster that could result if air traffic control devices simultaneously fail when the clock strikes midnight on January 1, 2000. Clearly this is not an issue that we can take lightly. Mr. Speaker, it is up to us to do our part and make sure that government computers are updated and to educate the public on this potential crisis. I commend the Senate for

taking the initiative to form a Special Committee to oversee this transition. It's time the Administration begins doing its part to combat the Year 2000 Problem.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND
BARBARA ROSENBERG

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Richard and Barbara Rosenberg for their outstanding commitment to strengthening the Jewish community in the Conejo Valley and for their support of the State of Israel. They will be awarded the Builders of Freedom Award in recognition of their dedication.

We are told in the Talmud that "He who does charity and justice is as if he had filled the whole world with kindness." For over 18 years Richard and Barbara have been dedicated members of Temple Etz Chaim, as well as social activists in the Jewish community. They have each worked to improve our community.

Barbara has served the Temple on the Board of Directors as Vice President of Ways and Means, Social Action and currently Youth Activities. She also holds positions on the Membership, Ways & Means and Religious Education Committees.

An avid supporter of education, Barbara has served on the Board of the Los Angeles Hebrew High School for the past three years. There she has worked to solidify the Jewish community through a Jewish Federation/Valley Alliance sponsored "Mitzvah Day." This program has brought other Conejo Valley congregations and Jewish organizations together for service to the community. During her two years as president of the Religious School Parent Volunteer Group, Barbara was instrumental in its reorganization so that it could better make a difference in the community.

Richard has served on the Temple Board as Vice President of Development, and was actively involved in both the building process and the solicitation of funds for the new building. He has served on the Men's Club Board, has been an active participant in many of its programs from picnics to sukkah building and has labeled, sorted and mailed the temple bulletin for almost 18 years.

We are told in the Talmud that "When you teach your son you teach your son's sons," and both Richard and Barbara Rosenberg have taken that commitment to education seriously. In addition to their work to fortify the Jewish community as a whole, they have also raised their children with a love of Judaism and a commitment to "make a difference" in the world. They are strong supporters of the State of Israel and have traveled there on several occasions. For their work they have been awarded the Builders of Freedom Award.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Richard and Barbara Rosenberg. Their dedication to charity and the strengthening of community makes them role models for us all.